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**National Energy Foundation Recognized for Excellence in Energy Education**

More than 300,000 Michigan Students Take Action to Save Energy Through State-wide Collaboration

SALT LAKE CITY (Feb. 10th, 2018) – The National Energy Foundation (NEF) received the Inspiring Efficiency Education Award from the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) for Think! Energy Michigan. The program, originally piloted in 2010, has equipped over 300,000 students, teachers and their families with the knowledge and tools to save energy and the environment.

Think! Energy empowers 5th grade students to be leaders at home and have a measurable impact on energy use. Educators from NEF lead students through an in-class experience focused on natural resources and energy efficiency. At the end of the school day, every student receives a Take Action! Kit with devices like LED light bulbs and high-efficiency showerheads to install with their family at home.

Interactive STEM lessons paired with fun-to-install measures reduce energy bills and cut the amount of fossil fuels required to keep students' communities safe and comfortable. "One Think! Energy partner reported evaluated savings of nearly 1,500,000 kWh in one program year," according to Program Director, Robin Reinarts. "In perspective, that is enough electricity to power the average home in the United States for 316 years."

"The work conducted in Michigan is essential to achieving NEF's mission to cultivate and promote an energy literate society. Therefore, we are dedicated to helping Michigan students and their families understand energy and use it wisely," NEF President Elissa Richards said of the program.

The original collaboration between NEF, Consumers Energy, DTE Energy, and members of Efficiency United has since grown to include 24 companies and the Michigan Department of Education. New major partnerships include SEMCO ENERGY, Lansing Board of Water & Light, and Holland Board of Public Works. Along with numerous additional participants, the combined service territories of the partnering organizations cover nearly the entire state of Michigan.

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National Energy Foundation (NEF) is a unique 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and cultivating an energy literate society through educational programs. NEF recognizes the importance and contribution of natural resources to our economy, national security, environment and quality of life.

Visit [www.NEF1.org](http://www.NEF1.org) to find out more about NEF